

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the herein remarks and accompanying information, which place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-20 were under consideration in this application. Claims 4, 11, 14, 19 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims in continuing application.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-10, 12, 13 and 15-18 are currently amended. Specifically, the “wherein” clause of claims 1 and 9 and the recitation of “targeted” in claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 12-18 are deleted. Claim 1 has also been clarified to recite an immunoglobulin-binding domain of *Staphylococcus aureus* Protein A.

No new matter has been added.

It is submitted that the claims herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If any issue remains as an impediment to allowance, a further interview with the Examiner is respectfully requested and the Examiner is additionally requested to contact the undersigned to arrange a mutually convenient time and manner for such an interview.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested. Early and favorable consideration of the application on the merits, and early Allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fee for this paper, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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